

# Prosecuting and Representing Animal Abusers and Caring for the Victims - The Michael Vick Case and Its Impact on Cruelty Cases

Presented by the American Bar Association's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section's Animal Law Committee,  
Trial Techniques Committee, the ABA Criminal Law Section & the National Canine Research Council



**Friday, September 19, 2008**  
**DePaul University College of Law**  
**8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Conference Room of the DePaul Center , Room 8005  
1 E. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL

## Program Description:

The federal dog fighting case against Michael Vick and his codefendants dominated the press for weeks and generated overwhelming public concern for the dogs seized from Bad Newz Kennels. This program will feature the forensic veterinarian, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a criminal defense attorney, and the court appointed special master/guardian in the case. The proceedings of the federal case will be discussed and its impact on future cruelty cases.

Forty-eight of the forty-nine American Pit Bull Terriers seized in the dog fighting case were deemed suitable for adoption or sanctuary placement. Some have already been adopted out. The challenges of assessing, caring for and adopting out the canine victims of dog fighting will be discussed by the team leader of the behavioral team, the major rescue group and animal sanctuary associated with the Vick case.

Other law enforcement professionals and prosecutors who have successfully investigated or prosecuted cruelty cases and animal hoarding cases will also share their tips. Successful court advocacy programs for animal cruelty cases will be discussed.

## Scholarships Available:

To honor the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia for its work in the matter of *United States of America v Michael Vick et al* (Criminal No. 3:07CR274), Animal Farm Foundation is pleased to offer five scholarships to this program. For more information, and to find out if you qualify, please contact Debra Dotson at (312) 988-5597.

## Program Sponsors:

Valparaiso University School of Law; Animal Farm Foundation; National Canine Research Council; Best Friends Animal Society, exclusive national sponsor of Safe Humane Chicago; Animal Welfare Institute; PetSmart Charities; and DePaul University College of Law

## Program Chair:

**Ledy VanKavage**, ASPCA, Maryville, IL

## Co-Chairs:

**Amy Maher**, Madison County State's Attorney's Office, Edwardsville, IL

**K. Michelle Welch**, Assistant Attorney General's Office, Richmond, VA

## Presenters:

**Francis Battista**, Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, UT

**Claire Cardwell**, Stone & Cardwell, Richmond, VA

**Jennifer Cifaldi**, Assistant State's Attorney, Adams County, Quincy, IL

**Cynthia Bathurst**, Principal Director, Safe Humane Chicago, Chicago, IL

**Professor Rebecca Huss**, Valparaiso University School of Law, Valparaiso, IN

**Amy Maher**, Madison County State's Attorney's Office, Edwardsville, IL

**Dr. Melinda Merck**, ASPCA, Atlanta, GA

**Tim Racer**, Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls (BAD RAP), San Francisco, CA

**Dr. Pam Reid**, ASPCA, Urbana, IL

**Donna Reynolds**, Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls (BAD RAP), San Francisco, CA

**K. Michelle Welch**, Assistant Attorney General's Office, Richmond, VA

**Brian Whisler**, U. S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond, VA

To Register, make checks payable to: ABA-TIPS, and mail to the American Bar Association, Debra Dotson, 321 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60610 or fax this form with credit card info to: 312-988-6230. Registration fees: \$75.00 for ABA members, \$100.00 for non-members. Law Students are free, but are required to register. Registration Deadline: September 5, 2008.

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To register for this program online, please visit:  
<https://www.abanet.org/tips/animalabusersreg.html>

